



Mississippi Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range

Facility and Location

The Former Pachuta Bombing and Gunnery Range (BGR) encompasses approximately 11,095 acres in southeastern Mississippi. Several types of aircraft from Key Field in Meridian utilized this site for various purposes from 1942 to 1945 including precision bombing, air-to-air gunnery, air-to-ground gunnery, strafing practice, and aerial photography with photo flash bombs. The site had a pistol range and barracks for troops.

The 2004 Archive Search Report (ASR) Supplement Report indicates that Pachuta BGR Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) is comprised of two Munitions Response Sites (MRSs): the 649 acre bombing range, and the 11,095 acre Range Complex No. 1 which is comprised of seven sub-ranges. Munitions suspected to have been used on the 649 acre bombing range MRS include 100 pound photoflash bombs and 100 pound sand filled practice bombs with spotting charges. Although no munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) or munitions debris (MD) was identified by any previous site visits during an interview associated with the December 1994 ASR site visit, a current property owner of the rifle range property indicated he found sand filled practice bombs and incendiary bombs on the range. The ASR indicates the incendiaries were probably photo flash bombs. MD, comprised of a piece of photoflash bomb casing, was found within the bombing range MRS during the site visit conducted for the 2009 Site Investigation (SI) Report. In June 2009 a construction crew was installing a new gas pipeline and unearthed 15 Mk19, 13 pound miniature and one 100 pound practice bombs at a depth of six to seven feet below the surface.

Only small arms ammunitions (.50 caliber and smaller) are suspected to have been used on MRS 1. No MEC or MD was observed within the MRS 04 during SI field activities in February 2009. However, a concrete structure (possibly part of a strafing target) was encountered at the MRS. MD in the form of .50 caliber projectiles were found on the MRS during the site visit associated with the 1995 ASR and, during an interview conducted as part of that report, a property owner indicated he found .50 caliber ammunition in the past.

Media Sampled and Findings

Surface Water — In 2009, three of three samples detected perchlorate from 0.02 to 0.05 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.